



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP URGES CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO DREDGE MORICHES INLET

Cites \$600,000 in Unused Funding

Washington—Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today sent a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers urging immediate dredging of Moriches Inlet in the wake of a capsized boat on Sunday which killed three people.

“While I recognize that natural conditions in the Inlet will always make passage extremely treacherous, it is imperative that we do everything possible to avoid another tragedy and the loss of human life,” Bishop wrote in the letter to Colonel John O’Dowd, District Engineer with the Corps.

Bishop urged the Corps to use \$600,000 in funding which was explicitly authorized for dredging in Moriches Inlet in the 2003 budget, but which has not been used.

“I ask that you put this money to its appointed use immediately, before summer residents and tourists increase traffic in the Inlet in the coming months,” Bishop wrote.

The Army Corps is responsible for maintaining Moriches Inlet through periodic dredging. Conditions have worsened in the Inlet since the last time it was dredged, leading to multiple accidents, and a decrease in boating in the area.

Bishop is a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, which authorizes Corps of Engineers projects. In addition to urging the Corps to use the resources it already has, Bishop pledged to continue working to fund dredging for Moriches Inlet to make the area as safe as possible.

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